Adaptation to Market Opportunities and Changing Gender Roles among the Afar in Ethiopia

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This presentation describes:

- The activities completed so far
- The remaining activities and modification done
- Finally, I present my progress on the approved activity timelines
The Research Team

- 5 females and 7 males
- 11 have Degrees
- Urban and rural settings
- Briefed about aims and techniques

Within the Market Economy, the Objectives of the Project:

- Examine aspects of policies and institutional changes;
- Examine the efforts and challenges they encountered;
- Investigate contribution to livelihoods, poverty reduction;
- Investigate occupational evaluation and social mobility;
- Finally, making policy recommendations
Completed Research Activities

- The activities completed so far
- Obtaining and reviewing documents
- Obtaining and arranging logistics
- Travels and data collection
- Transcription and categorization
- Progress reports
Modifications done on:

- The research design
- The target group

Accordingly, data collected from:

- Women
- Administrators
- Civic and religious leaders
- Tribal chiefs and sages
- Afar Academics
Methodology

Based on an interpretative approach,
It examined experiences and narratives
So that
It employed case studies involving
✓ In-depth interviews
✓ Semi-structure interviews
✓ Small group discussions
Conducted in three stages
Conducted in the homes or verandas
Most of them in markets, shops and offices
Either in Amharic or Afarifa
During early morning and late afternoon to evening
Each evening, team convened for recounting stories

Samples
Samples of both sexes
Purposively selected
Challenges and resolution

- Reluctance to agree for interviews
- Overemphasizing on issues of policies
- Declined to avail on day hours
- Difficult to organize FGD as planned
- Using contact persons related to them
- Using former contacts and students
- Formal discussions with small groups
- One informant from a household

cont.
Profiles of Informants and Preliminary Findings

The final samples was 89 informants
Selected from three generations

The oldest generation
Aged from their early 60s to late 80s
Most had been born and lived in villages
Boasting for number of cattle and camels

The middle generation
Aged from early 40s and late 50s
Many had been born and raised in villages,
10 of them had had some educations,
17 employed or business
4 from female-headed

The youngest generation
Aged between 25 to late 30s
Had access to opportunities
14 of them have degrees
Employed or commerce
6 from female-headed

cont.
Types of Interview

Sex Distribution

Age Distribution

Formal Interview
Informal Interview

Sex Distribution

Age Distribution

Axis Title

Oldest; 37
Middle; 31
Youngest; 21

Oldest
Middle
Youngest

Axis Title

Male
Female
Issues and concerns:
All focus on different issues, but
✓ The dying pastoralism,
✓ Broad ranges of policies
✓ Recent economic inflation

Seen as major causes for:
✓ Impoverishment
✓ Deep social divisions
✓ Weakening tribal spirits
✓ Khat addiction

All viewed wealth as:
✓ Sanctuary of morality and identity
✓ Banner of traditions, obligations
✓ As having many social values
✓ Social, less private

cont.
Each generation concerned over:
- The dying pastoralism,
- Broad range of state policies and projects
- Recent economic inflation

They see them as major causes for:
- Deep social divisions
- Weakening tribal spirit and family values
- Khat addiction

All of them view pastoralism/wealth as:
- Citadel of integrity, morality and identity
- Within the framework of traditions
- As having many sociological values

Constraints for commercial expansion
- The conflicts with neighboring pastoralists
- Absence of microfinance institutions
- Banks are inaccessible
Constraints for profit expansion

- The social conflicts
- Absence of Micro-Finances
- Far-off Banks
- Religion and wealth Judgments
- Emphasis on need, not profits
- Trekking distances, insecurity of roads
- Low volumes and density
- Low demands and Price fluctuations
- Irresponsive bureaucracies
But, all agreed that:
The young had more opportunities
Communal assets as commodities
Greater mobility
The capacity to urban lifestyle
Changes on gender roles and relations

The work remaining includes:
✓ Data analysis,
✓ Write-up, revising,
✓ Proof reading and submitting

So far, I am on schedule to achieve the milestones (Dec, 2014 and June, 2015).